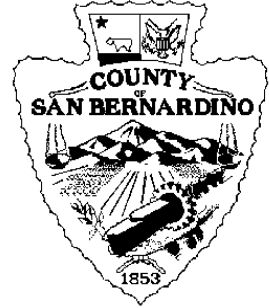


# NEWS

From Supervisor Bill Postmus  
**First District, San Bernardino County**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 4, 2003

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## **NEW TWENTYNINE PALMS AIRPORT RUNWAY NEARS COMPLETION** *Dedication Slated for February 13*

SAN BERNARDINO—The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved a third and final change order for the construction of Runway 8/26 at the County's Twentynine Palms Airport.

The \$55,000 change order brings the total contract amount with Granite Construction Company to \$1,995,546. With engineering, design, testing and inspection the total project cost is nearly \$2.4 million. The project was designed by Associated Engineers, Inc. The project is being funded primarily through a Federal Aviation Administration grant, along with a ten percent local-match contribution.

The relocation of Runway 8/26 was conceived and included in the County's first master plan for the airport in the early 1970s. The project is part of the County's approved Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2002/03.

The primary purpose of the new construction is to increase the separation between the runway and airport buildings and ramps, thereby improving airport safety. The new runway is 23 feet wider than the previous runway and is compliant with FAA regulations.

Airport officials and First District Supervisor Bill Postmus will dedicate the newly completed runway during a ceremony scheduled for Thursday, February 13, at 10:00 a.m. Austin Wiswell, the state Director of Aeronautics, is expected to be on hand to present a new state Airport Permit, and Chuck McCormick, FAA project manager/engineer, will be on hand and will make the first official landing on the runway.

Twentynine Palms Airport began as an emergency landing strip and auxiliary

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## TWENTYNINE PALMS RUNWAY

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training field for military pilots training in gliders and fixed wing aircraft. After World War II, the federal government deeded the site to the County and it remained inactive until 1957. The County paved the runway in the late 1950s, and assumed management of the airport in 1970.

Supervisor Postmus acknowledged the support of Billy Bouldin, one of the County's Airports Commissioners. "Billy worked hard to make this project possible and participated in design and construction meetings throughout the project," Postmus said. "I would also like to recognize the efforts of Bob Nolan, who worked for several businesses at the airport over the past few years and who passed away shortly after the groundbreaking of this project. Bob was a big advocate for the project during the design period."